

Illinois Prescribed Burn Manager Certification Board
Minutes of the 18th Meeting

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Mallard Room
One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, IL 62702

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

1) Call to Order, Roll Call, and Introduction of Attendees

The meeting was called to order by Mike Wefer at 10:07 a.m.

Members Present: Mike Wefer, Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), Division of Wildlife; Todd Strole, IDNR, Division of Natural Heritage; Tom Wilson, IDNR, Division of Forestry; Kelly Neal, Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, Les Albert, State Fire Marshal, and Jack Pizzo (via telephone), Pizzo Group.

Others Present: Dan McGuire (IDNR, Division of Wildlife)

2) Adoption of Agenda

It was moved by Todd Strole, seconded by Tom Wilson. The motion carried that the agenda be adopted.

3) Approval of the Minutes of the 17th Meeting, December 11, 2018

It was moved by Tom Wilson, seconded by Kelly Neal. The motion carried that the Minutes of the 17th meeting, December 11, 2018, be approved.

4) Meetings Scheduled for FY 2020

December 08, 2020, IDNR Headquarters, 10:00 A.M.

5) State of Certification of Prescribed Burn Manager Process

Tom Wilson reported that there were 724 Certified Burn Managers. There were 29 that applied and were approved in 2019. Of those, 20 were paid applications from outside the agency and 9 were agency staff.

Old Business

6) Introduction of Members

All present introduced themselves.

- Kelly Neal stated that the INPC approved that she represents them on the board.
- Les Albert stated that the Illinois State Fire Marshall appointed him to the board since Kent Tomblin had retired.

New Business

7) Enforcing the Administrative Rule/Revoking Certification

Mike Wefer reported on IDNR Office of Legal Counsel opinion that Prescribed Burn Manager certifications could not be revoked as the administrative rule is currently written. To do so would require changes to both 1565 – Illinois Prescribed Burning Act and 2530 – Revocation Procedures for Conservation Offenses.

The Board discussed options.

It was decided that Presiding Officer, Mike Wefer should submit a letter to the IDNR Director, requesting that the necessary changes be made to Administrative rules to allow for the revocation of Burn Manager Certification.

Todd Strole made the motion, seconded by Tom Wilson. The motion carried

8) Public Comment

No Public Comments.

9) Other Business

Tom Wilson provided an update on the Forestry Division's efforts to provide information on the website and to speed up processing certification applications.

9) Adjournment

It was moved by Les Albert, seconded by Todd Strole, and carried that the meeting be adjourned at 10:57 a.m.